MINISTRY OF RAILWYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, some unauthorised hawkers travelling in trains have been detected.

(d) Surprise checks are conducted from time to time jointly by Commercial and Railway Protection Force/Govt. Railway Police personnel to apprehend unauthorised hawkers/vendors travelling in trains. The persons so apprehended are dealt with in accordance with law.

Quality Education to Economically Backward Students

4126. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide quality education to the economically backward students to improve their lots; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). The National Policy on Education, 1986 (NPE) envisages a national system of education, whereby upto a given level all students irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex would have access to education of a comparable quality. Following NPE, the Government launched a number of schemes like the Operation Blackboard, restructuring and reorganisation of teacher education, programme for improving science education, computer literacy in schools, and educational technology.

As envisaged by NPE, Navodaya Vidyalayas are being set up to provide quality education to children with special talent or aptitude, largely from a rural background.

AIDS Menace in Bombay

4127. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "AIDS may strike Bombay in three years" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated September 23, 1991; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The Government has seen the news item.

(b) According to the latest report receive from Maharashtra Government, out of a total no. of 1,06,910 persons screened upto 1,11,91, 3232 have been tested for HIV sero-positive. The total no. of AIDS cases reported from Maharashtra as 53. Out of the 1,06,910 samples tested, 44,744samples belonged to be hetro-sexnal promisctious persons. In this group, 1341 samples were found to be sero-positive and this constituted nearly 5%of the samples screened of the group.

As preventive measures against AIDS, the Govt. have established:-

(i) Surveillance centres for screening blood of high risk groups.

(ii) 43 Zonal blood tests centres.

(iii) One AIDS unit at Grant Medical College and JJ Hospital Bombay of which Rs. 12.00 lakhs given by the Government to Maharashtra. The Government of India, in collaboration with the State Government has also identified Information, Education and Communication activities among persons practicing high risk behaviors and for which necessary Central Assistance has also been released to the State.

Under the Medium Term Plan, the Activity Plan of the Maharashtra State has already been approved by Government and funds for implementing the activities have already been released to State Government. For strengthening the programme management at the State level, the State Government has already agreed to establish a separate AIDS Control Cell to implement and monitor the programme activities.

Women Congress Meet for a Healthy Planet

4128. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem "Environment meet: Earnest ponderings amidst hijinks" appearing in Sunday Observer dated November 17-23, 1991; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet was organized at Miami, Florida (USA) from 8-12 November 1991 by the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO), a non government agency based in the United States of America. Government of India have not received any report or recommendation from this conference. Hence, question of follow up action by the Government does not arise.

Occupancy Rate in ITDC Hotels

4129. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the India Tourism Development Corporation hotels have not improved their performance and also have not achieved the target rate of occupancy in each of them despite joint business arrangements with some foreign firms;

(b) whether Hotel Ashok, New Delhi & Bangalore are equally not coming up in their performances while huge foreign exchange has been incurred by the above arrangements; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). Tourism industry in the country has received a set back owing to disturbances in some parts of the country, the Gulf